

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

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R 072320Z NOV 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SOCI, IN, GW

SUBJECT: COURT-MARTIAL OF US SIKH CONVERTS IN WEST GERMANY

REF: BONN 15696

1. DOD HAS CLEARED BONN REFTEL FOR USE IF YOU RECEIVE
PRESS INQUIRIES, WITH FOLLOWING CHANGES: (A) DELETE
FIRST PARAGRAPH; (B) DELETE LAST SENTENCE OF FOURTH
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PARAGRAPH.

2. DOD HAS PROVIDED FOLLOWING STATEMENT OF POLICY ON THIS

ISSUE, WHICH MAY ALSO BE DRAWN UPON AND WHICH SHOULD PROVIDE BASIS FOR DENYING ALLEGATION OF RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION.

QUOTE

1. THE FOLLOWING DEPT OF ARMY APPEARANCE POLICY, APPLICABLE TO BONA FIDE MEMBERS OF THE SIKH RELIGION, HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED: (A) A MAN WHO ENLISTS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO WEAR LONG HAIR ON HIS HEAD OR FACE WHILE IN THE ARMY. PROVISIONS OF PARA 5 - 39, ARMY REGULATIONS 600-20 APPLY. (B) A MAN WHO IS INDUCTED, AND WHOSE RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AT TIME OF INDUCTION (SIKH) INCLUDE WEARING HIS HAIR UNCUT, MAY BE GRANTED AUTHORITY TO WEAR UNCUT HAIR AND BEARD, THE COMB, TURBAN, AND BRACELET.

(1) INASMUCH AS THE HEAD MUST BE COVERED, THE INDIVIDUAL MAY BE AUTHORIZED TO WEAR THE TURBAN RATHER THAN MILITARY HEADGEAR IN THOSE CASES WHERE PROTECTION HEADGEAR (STEEL HELMET) IS NOT REQUIRED.

(2) THE CARRYING OF A SWORD IS NOT AUTHORIZED.

2. EXCEPTIONS SPECIFIED IN 1(B) ABOVE WILL BE AUTHORIZED ONLY BY HEADQUARTERS, DEPT OF ARMY. REQUESTS FOR EXCEPTIONS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO HQ, DEPT OF ARMY, DAPE-HRP, AND WILL INCLUDE: (A) A STATEMENT FROM THE INDIVIDUALS TEMPLE THAT HE IS A BONA FIDE MEMBER OF THE SIKH RELIGION AND WAS AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT PRIOR TO ENTRY ON ACTIVE DUTY ; (B) A STATEMENT FROM THE INDIVIDUALS TEMPLE AS TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE SIKH RELIGION AND WHETHER THESE REQUIREMENTS CAN BE WAIVED; (C) A STATEMENT BY AN ARMY CHAPLAIN WHO HAS COUNSELLED THE INDIVIDUAL CONCERNING HIS RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND DETERMINED THE EXTENT TO WHICH HE ADHERES TO THE PRACTICE OF THESE BELIEFS.

3. THE RULE REGARDING COMPLIANCE WITH UNIFORM REGULATIONS MAY BE SUMMARIZED SIMPLY: UNIFORM REGULATIONS MUST BE FOLLOWED, RELIGIOUS PREFERENCES NOTWITHSTANDING, UNLESS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AN EXCEPTION TO POLICY CAN BE OBTAINED BY THE INDIVIDUAL.

UNQUOTE. RUSH

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